

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ZACKARY ELLIS SANDERS,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:20-cr-00143

Honorable T.S. Ellis, III

Sentencing: Apr. 1, 2022

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO SEAL

Pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 49(E), defendant, Zackary Ellis Sanders, through counsel, moves for an order permitting the defense to file under seal portions of his Reply to the Government's Response to his Motion for New Trial and to Reconsider Motions to Compel and Motions to Suppress. A proposed order is attached for the consideration of the Court.¹ The government has previously consented to Mr. Sanders filing under seal material that it considers to be subject to the protective order, that it considers particularly sensitive, or that has previously been filed under seal. Mr. Sanders seeks sealing for the same reasons here. The defense does not believe that any of the exhibits need to be filed under seal, as they are all publicly available documents. In support of this motion, the defense further states:

¹ The document to be filed under seal will be filed with the Court non-electronically pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 49(E) and the Electronic Case Filing Policies and Procedures (*see* p. 21). Pursuant to the Local Rules, the sealed document is to be treated as sealed pending the outcome of this motion.

I. Items to be Filed Under Seal, and Necessity for Sealing

A. Mr. Sanders asks the Court to seal portions of his Reply to the Government's Response to his Motion for New Trial and to Reconsider Motions to Compel and Motions to Suppress, which pertain to and refer to material that the government believes is under a protective order, that the government believes is most sensitive, or has been previously filed under seal. *See* ECF No. 28. The defense has endeavored to seal only the minimum necessary portion of its Reply and will file a redacted version on the public docket.

B. Filing portions of Mr. Sanders's Reply to the Government's Response to his Motion for New Trial and to Reconsider Motions to Compel and Motions to Suppress under seal is necessary because it contains discussion of material that the government considers under a protective order, that the government considers most sensitive, or that has previously been filed under seal. *See* ECF No. 28.

C. Counsel for Mr. Sanders has considered procedures other than filing partially under seal and none will suffice to protect disclosure of this information that the government considers subject to a protective order or most sensitive, or that has previously been filed under seal.

II. Previous Court Decisions Which Concern Sealing Documents

The Court has the inherent power to seal materials submitted to it. *See United States v. Wuagneux*, 683 F.2d 1343, 1351 (11th Cir. 1982); *State of Arizona v. Maypenny*, 672 F.2d 761, 765 (9th Cir. 1982); *Times Mirror Company v. United States*, 873 F.2d 1210 (9th Cir. 1989); *see also Shea v. Gabriel*, 520 F.2d 879 (1st Cir. 1975); *United States v. Hubbard*, 650 F.2d 293 (D.C. Cir. 1980); *In re Braughton*, 520 F.2d 765, 766 (9th Cir. 1975). “The trial court has supervisory power over its own records and may, in its discretion, seal documents if the public’s right of access is outweighed by competing interests.” *In re Knight Pub. Co.*, 743 F.2d 231, 235 (4th Cir. 1984).

III. Period of Time to Have the Document Under Seal

The materials to be filed under seal would need to remain sealed as long as the protective order remains in effect.

Accordingly, Mr. Sanders respectfully requests that this Court enter an order allowing the defense to file under seal portions of Mr. Sanders's Reply to the Government's Response to his Motion for New Trial and to Reconsider Motions to Compel and Motions to Suppress.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
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Counsel for Defendant Zackary Ellis Sanders

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 21st day of March 2022, the foregoing was served electronically on the counsel of record through the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia Electronic Document Filing System (ECF) and the document is available on the ECF system.

/s/ Jonathan Jeffress
Jonathan Jeffress